

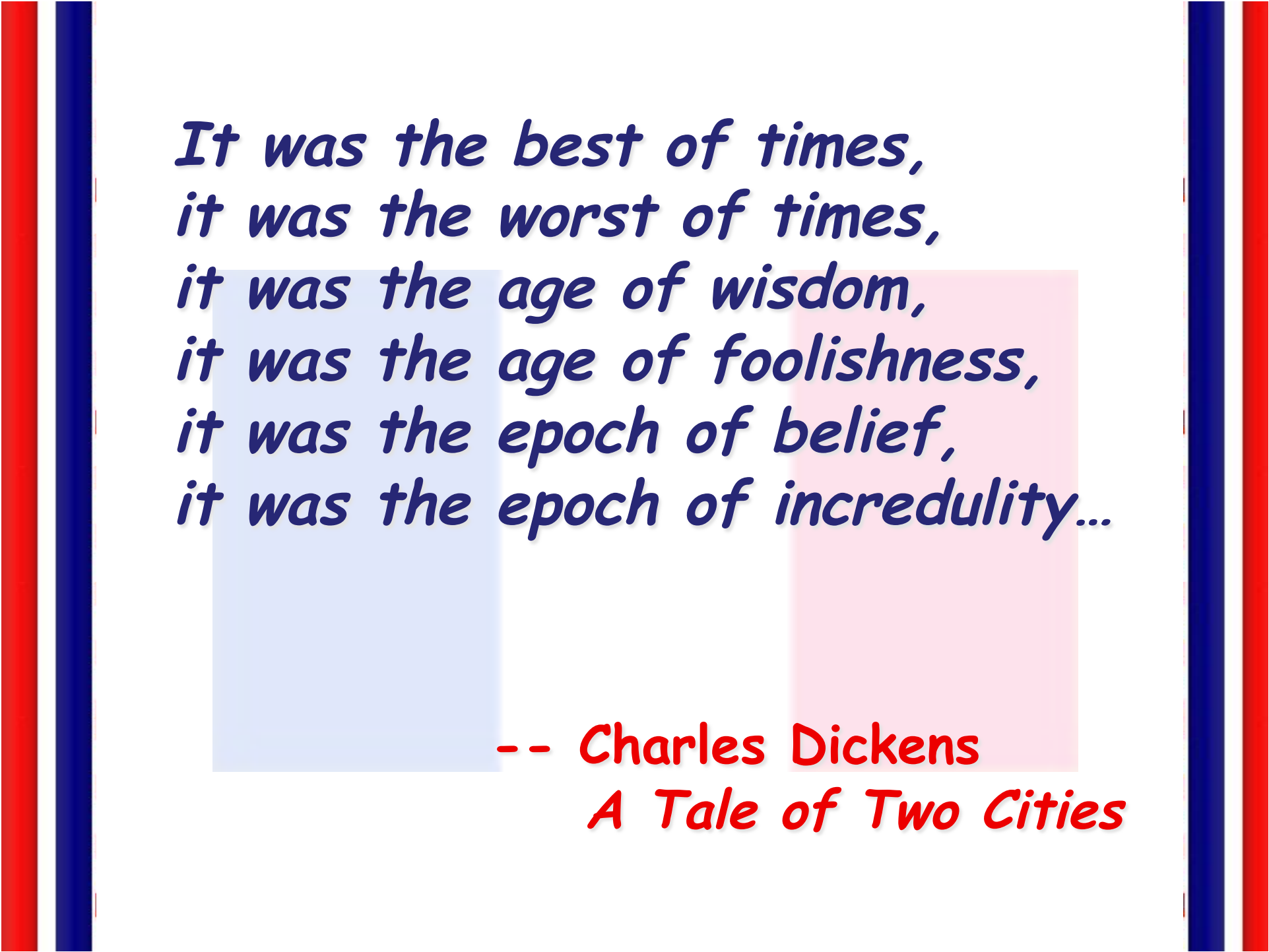
# *The French Revolution*

*"Bourgeois" Phase:*



*1789-1792*





*It was the best of times,  
it was the worst of times,  
it was the age of wisdom,  
it was the age of foolishness,  
it was the epoch of belief,  
it was the epoch of incredulity...*

*-- Charles Dickens  
A Tale of Two Cities*

# The French Monarchy: 1775 - 1793



Marie Antoinette & Louis XVI







**Marie  
Antoinette  
and the  
Royal  
Children**



# Marie Antoinette's "Peasant Cottage"

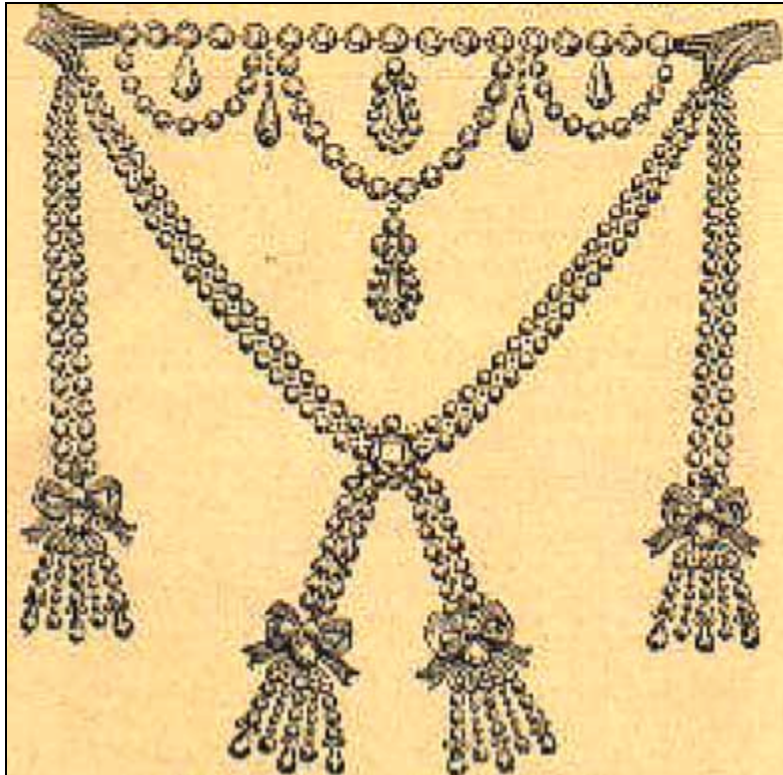




# Marie Antoinette's "Peasant Cottage"



# The Necklace Scandal



1,600,000 *livres*

[\$100 million today]

Y Cardinal Louis René Édouard de Rohan

Y The Countess de LaMotte



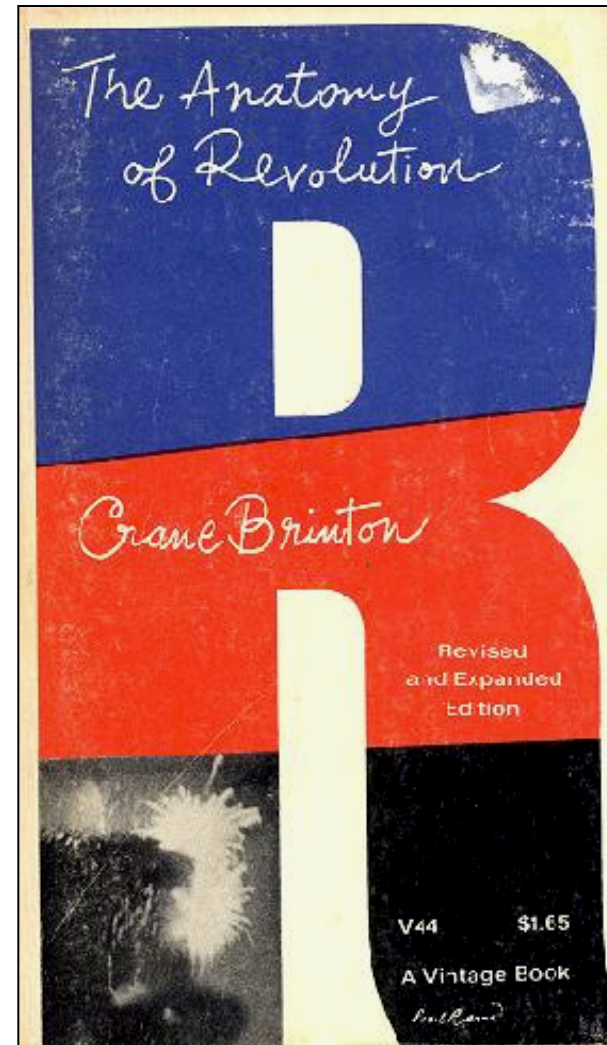
# *Let Them Eat Cake!*



- Y Marie Antoinette NEVER said that!
- Y “Madame Deficit”
- Y “The Austrian Whore”

# Crane Brinton's *Anatomy of a Revolution*

- Y He borrowed his terms from pathology.
- Y Compares a revolution to a fever or a disease:
  - The revolutionary “fever” begins with the appearance of certain “symptoms.”
  - It proceeds by advances and retreats to a crisis stage, or “delirium.”
  - The crisis ends when the “fever” breaks.
  - A period of convalescence follows, interrupted by a relapse or two before the recovery is complete.



# Crane Brinton: Conditions Present Before a Revolution Occurs

1. People from all social classes are discontented.
2. People feel restless and held down by unacceptable restrictions in society, religion, the economy or the govt.
3. People are hopeful about the future, but they are being forced to accept less than they had hoped for.
4. People are beginning to think of themselves as belonging to a social class, and there is a growing bitterness between social classes.
5. The social classes closest to one another are the most hostile.



# Crane Brinton: Conditions Present Before a Revolution Occurs

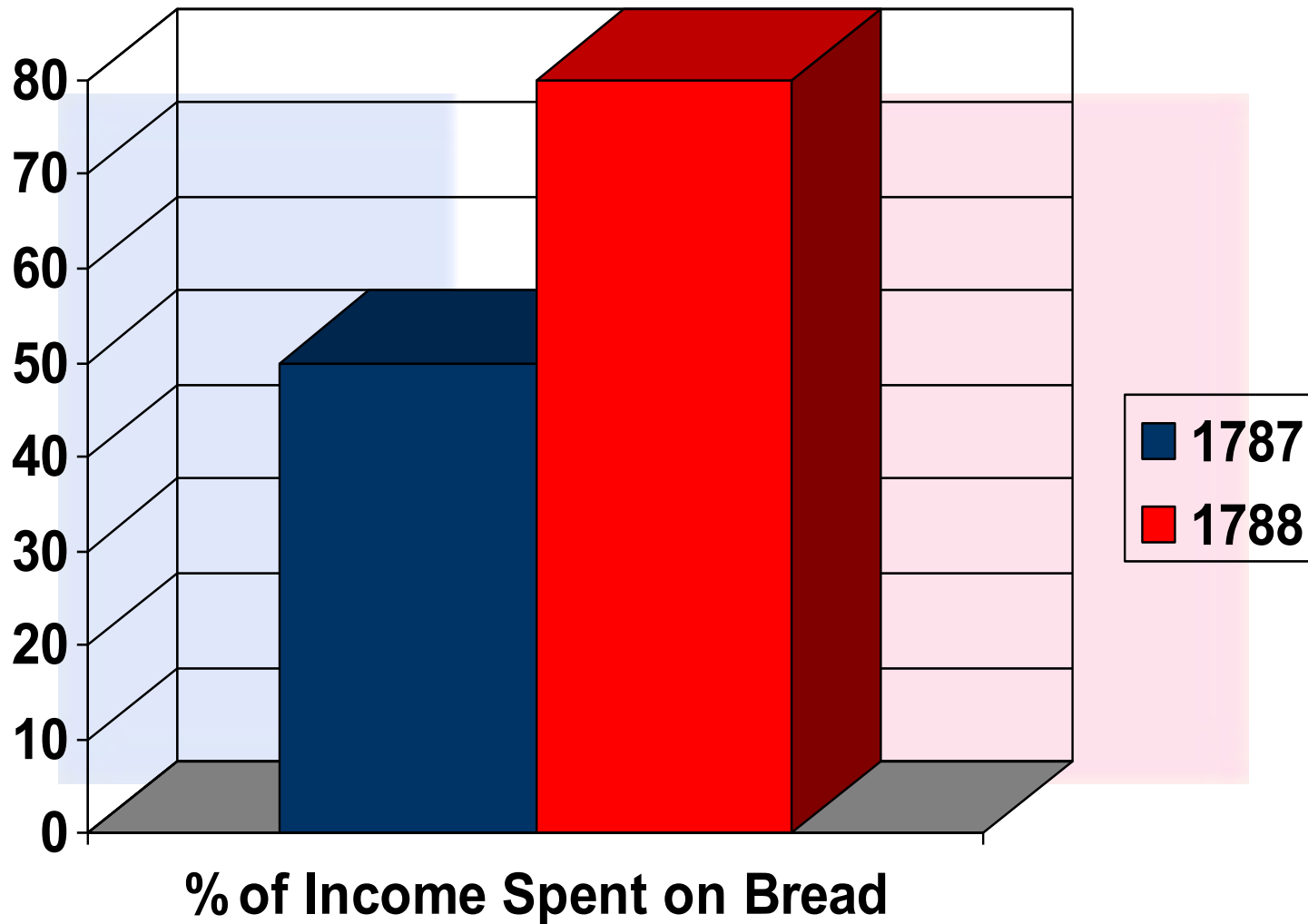
6. The scholars and thinkers give up on the way their society operates.
7. The government does not respond to the needs of its society.
8. The leaders of the government and the ruling class begin to doubt themselves. Some join with the opposition groups.
9. The government is unable to get enough support from any group to save itself.
10. The government cannot organize its finances correctly and is either going bankrupt or trying to tax heavily and unjustly.

# Socio-Economic Data, 1789

**Land Ownership by Social Category on the Eve of the French Revolution**

	Clergy	Nobility	Bourgeoisie	Peasantry
Land in France owned by each group	6–10%	20–25%	30%	40–45%
Each group as a percentage of the total population	2%	1.5%	8.4%	82–87%

# The French Urban Poor





# Financial Problems in France, 1789

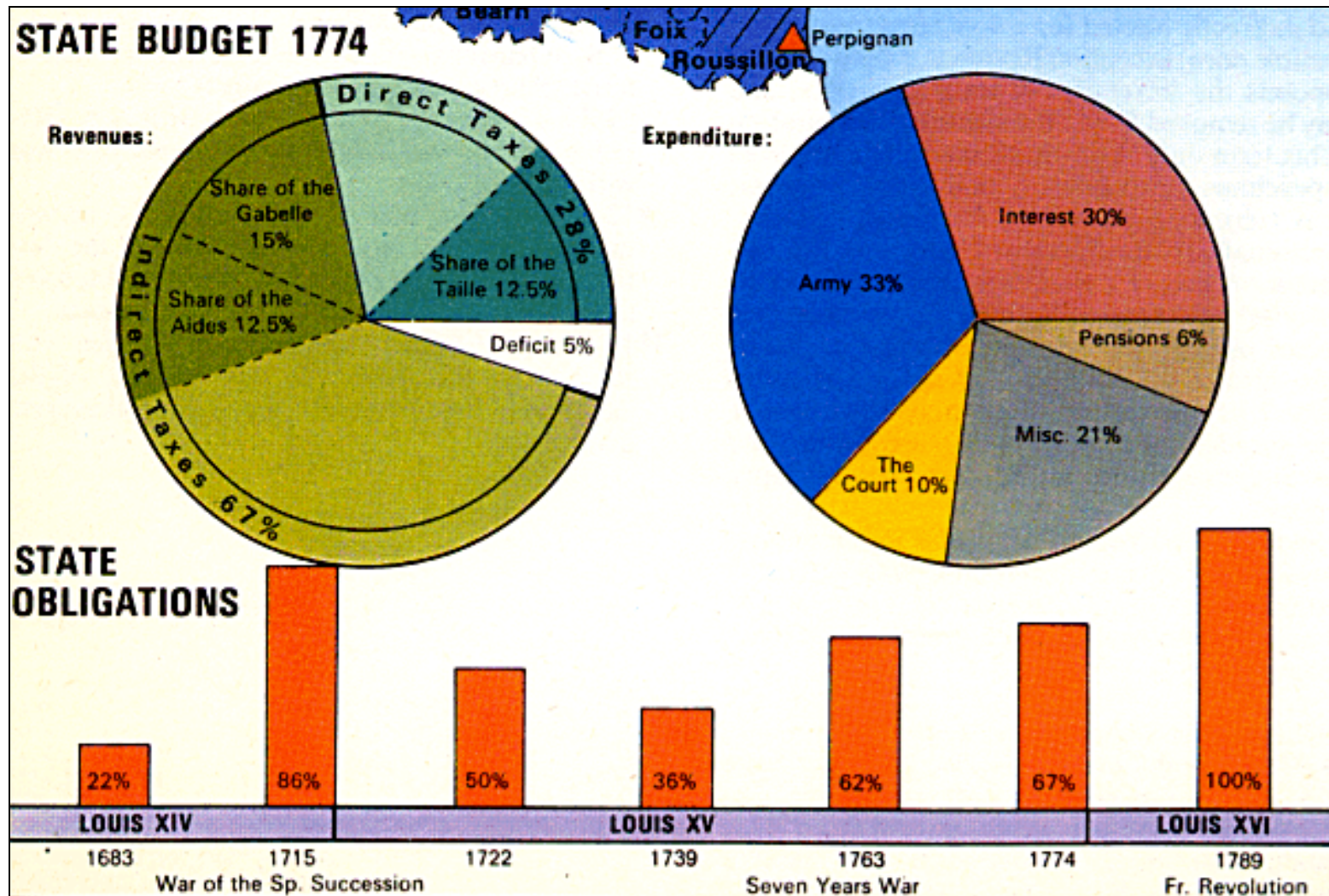
## a Urban Commoner's Budget:

- Food 80%
- Rent 25%
- Tithe 10%
- Taxes 35%
- Clothing 20%
- **TOTAL 170%**

## a King's Budget:

- Interest 50%
- Army 25%
- Versailles 25%
- Coronation 10%
- Loans 25%
- Admin. 25%
- **TOTAL 160%**

# French Budget, 1774





# *Where is the tax money?*



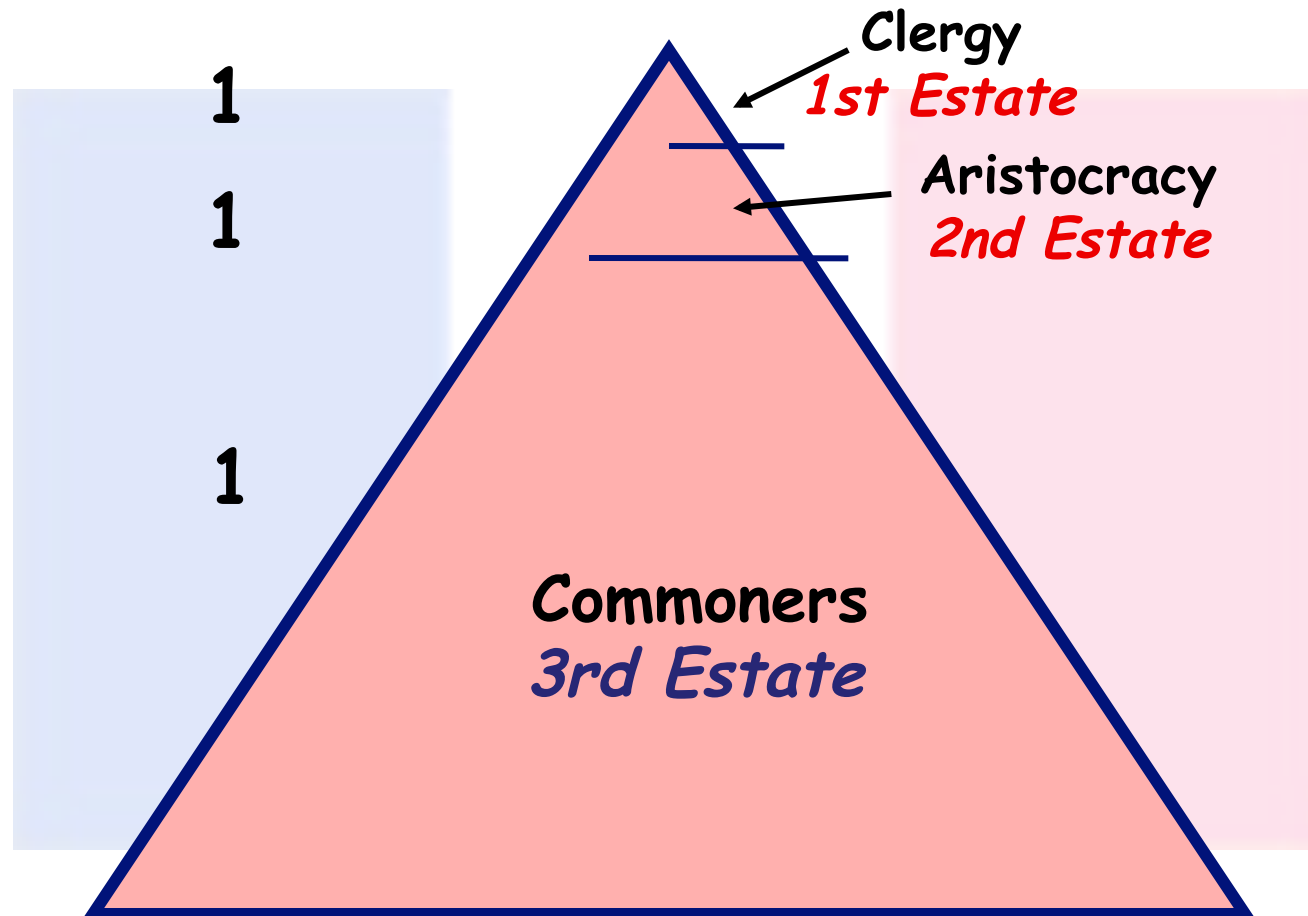


# *Lettres de Cachet*

- Y The French king could warrant imprisonment or death in a signed letter under his seal.
- Y *A carte-blanche* warrant.
- Y Cardinal Fleury issued 80,000 during the reign of Louis XV!
- Y Eliminated in 1790.

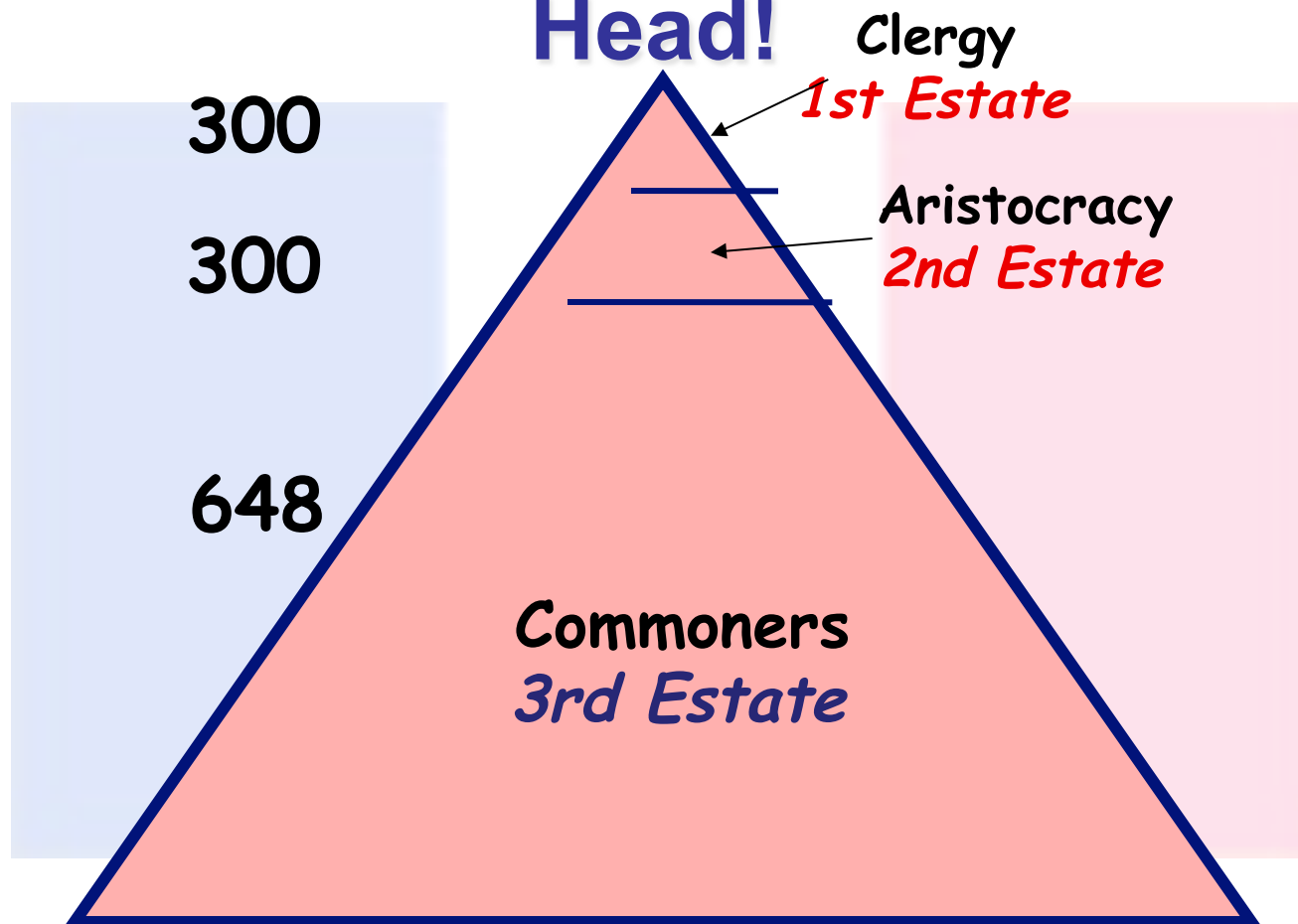


# The Suggested Voting Pattern: Voting by Estates



Louis XIV insisted that *the ancient distinction of the three orders be conserved in its entirety.*

# The Number of Representatives in the Estates General: Vote by Head!



# Abbe Sieyes

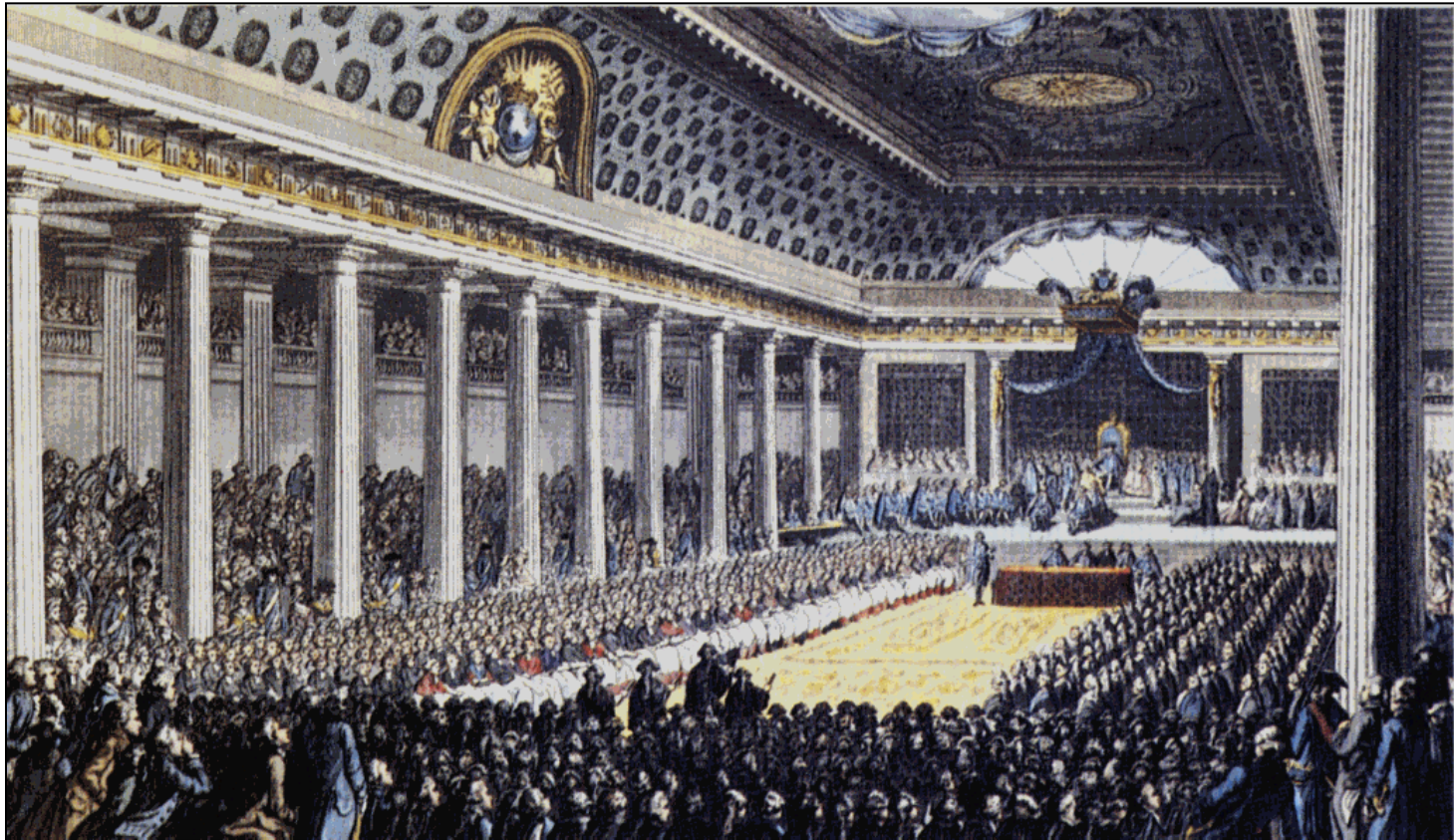
- 1<sup>st</sup> *What is the Third Estate?* Everything!
- 2<sup>nd</sup> What has it been heretofore in the political order?  
Nothing!
- 3<sup>rd</sup> What does it demand?  
To become something therein!



Abbé Sieyès  
1748-1836



# Convening the Estates General May, 1789



Last time it was called into session was 1614!

# ***“The Third Estate Awakens”***

- Y The commoners finally presented their credentials not as delegates of the Third Estate, but as “representatives of the nation.”



- Y They proclaimed themselves the “National Assembly” of France.

# Third Estate Locked out

- When the deputies of the Third Estate showed up on June 20, 1789 for the National Assembly they were locked out
- They went to a indoor tennis court to swear an oath that they would meet until they produced a constitution.
- Third estate had no legal right to act as a National Assembly
- King Louis XVI threatened to dissolve the entire Estates General and use force.



# **“The Tennis Court Oath”** **by Jacques Louis David**



June 20, 1789

# Europe on the Eve of the French Revolution-1789





# Storming the Bastille, July 14, 1789

Y A rumor that the king was planning a military coup against the National Assembly prompted this action. It contained ammunition!



- Y 18 died.
- Y 73 wounded.
- Y 7 guards killed.
- Y It held 7 prisoners [5 ordinary criminals & 2 madmen].

# Crane Brinton: The Course that Revolutions Seem to Take

1. Impossible demands made of government which, if granted, would mean its end.
2. Unsuccessful government attempts to suppress revolutionaries.
3. Revolutionaries gain power and seem united.
4. Once in power, revolutionaries begin to quarrel among themselves, and unity begins to dissolve.
5. The moderates gain the leadership but fail to satisfy those who insist on further changes.

# Crane Brinton: The Course that Revolutions Seem to Take

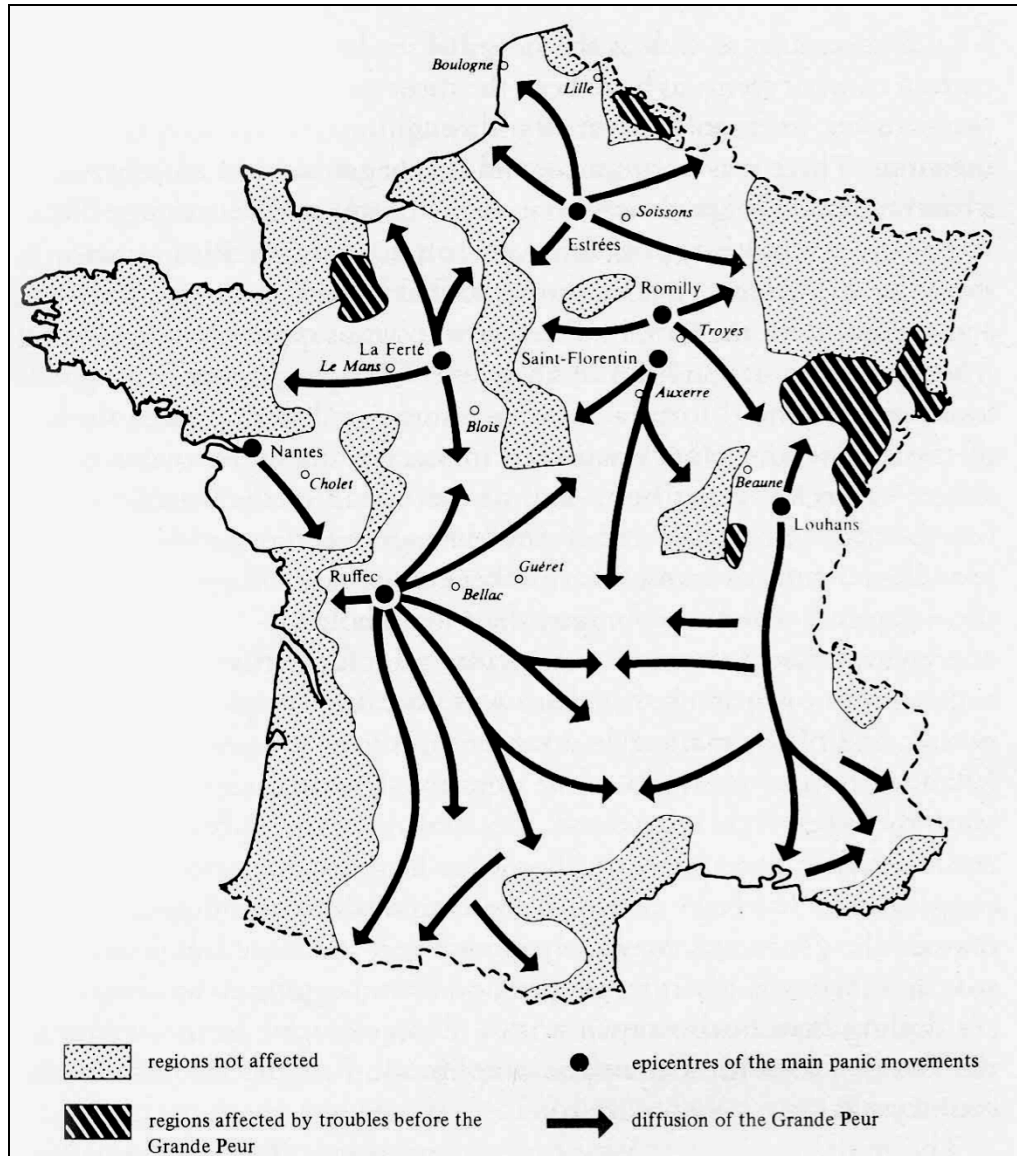
6. Power is gained by progressively more radical groups until finally a lunatic fringe gains almost complete control.
7. A strong man emerges and assumes great power.
8. The extremists try to create a “heaven-on-earth” by introducing their whole program and by punishing all of their opponents.
9. A period of terror [extreme violence] occurs.
10. Moderate groups regain power. **THE REVOLUTION IS OVER!**



# The Great Fear: Peasant Revolt (July 20, 1789)



Y Rumors that the feudal aristocracy [the *aristos*] were sending hired brigands to attack peasants and pillage their land.



# The Path of the “Great Fear”

# Night Session of August 4, 1789

**Y** Before the night was over:

- The feudal regime in France had been abolished.
- All Frenchmen were, at least in principle, subject to the same laws and the same taxes and eligible for the same offices.

**Equality & Meritocracy!**



# National Constituent Assembly-1789-1791

*Liberté!*

*Egalité!*

*Fraternité!*

**August Decrees**

August 4-11, 1789

(A renunciation of aristocratic privileges!)

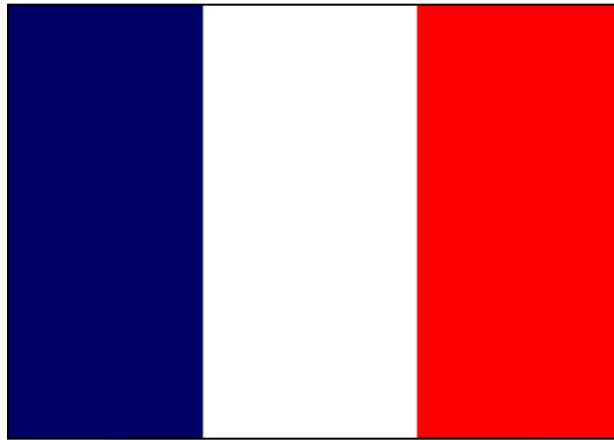
## BUT . . . .

- Y Feudal dues were not renounced outright [this had been too strong a threat to the principle of private property!]
- Y Peasants would compensate their landlords through a series of direct payments for obligations from which they had supposedly been freed.
  - Therefore, the National Assembly made revolutionary gestures, but remained essentially moderate.

**Their Goal**

→ Safeguard the right of private property!!

# The Tricolor (1789)



The WHITE of the  
Bourbons + the RED &  
BLUE of Paris.

***Citizen!***





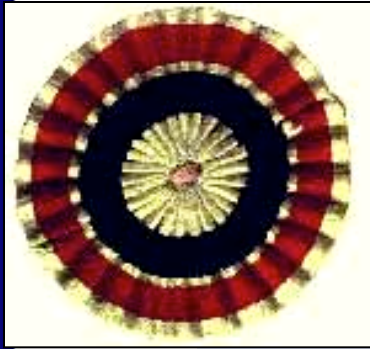
# The Tricolor is the Fashion!



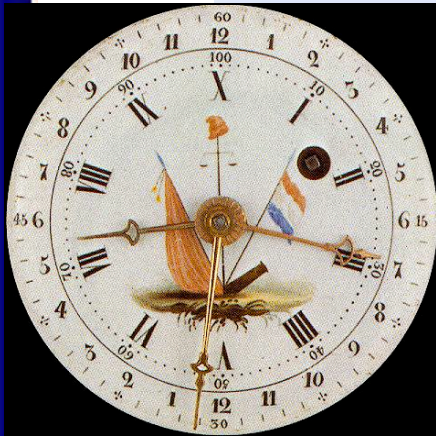
# The “Liberty Cap”: *Bonne*



# Revolutionary Symbols



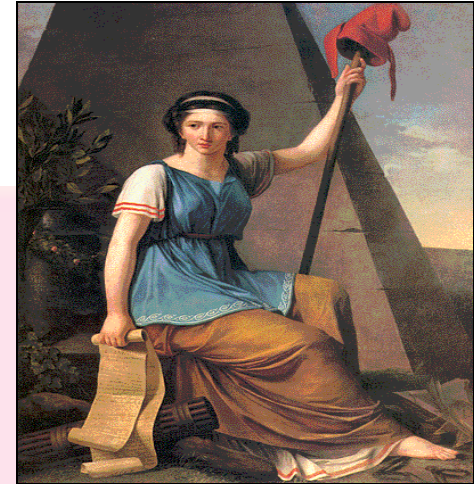
Cockade



Revolutionary  
Clock



*La Republic*



*Liberté*



Phrygian  
Hat





# Revolutionary Playing

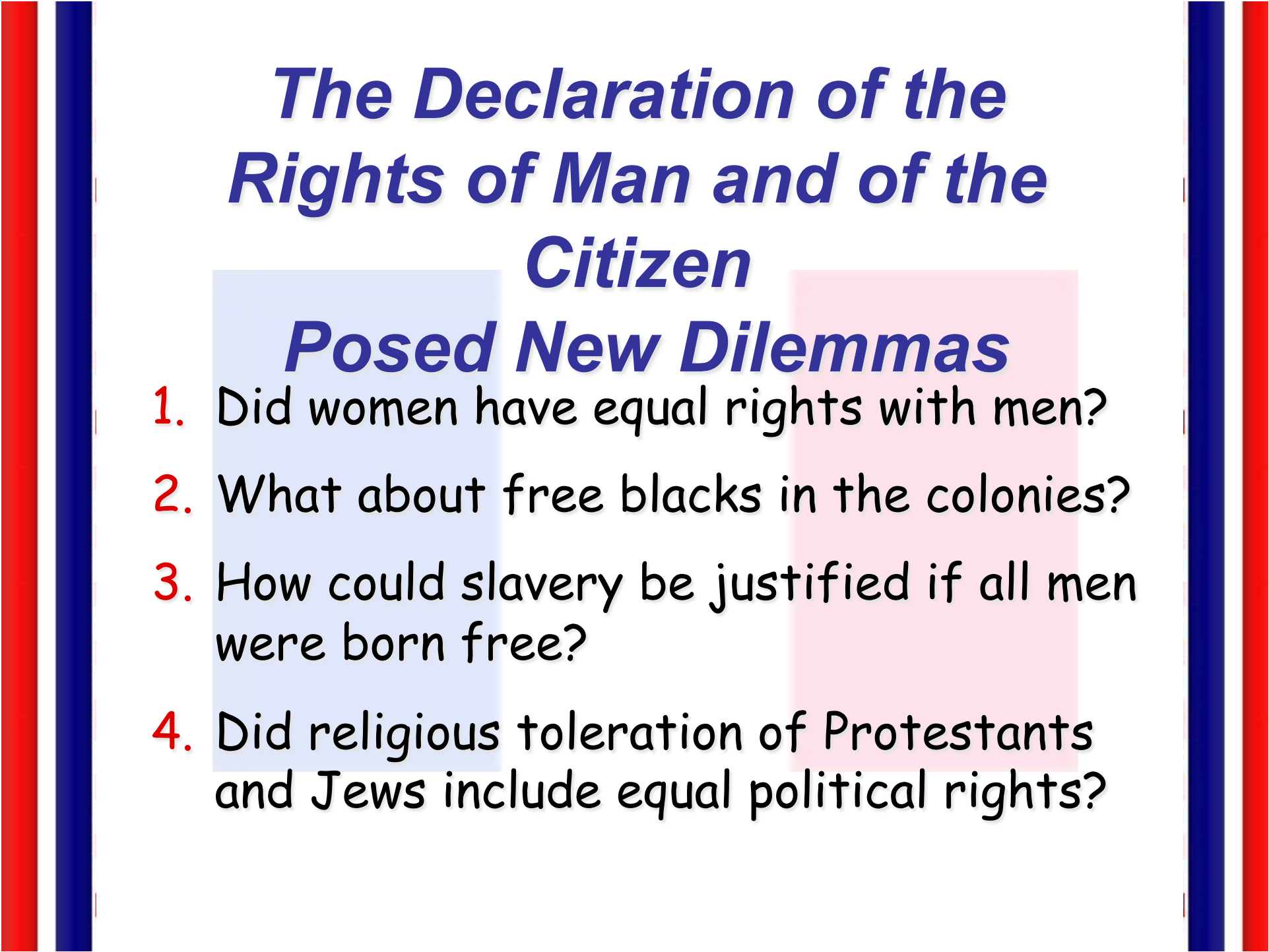


# The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen

August 26,  
1789



- ✓ Liberty!
- ✓ Property!
- ✓ Resistance to oppression!
- ✓ Thomas Jefferson was in Paris at this time.



# ***The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen***

## ***Posed New Dilemmas***

1. Did women have equal rights with men?
2. What about free blacks in the colonies?
3. How could slavery be justified if all men were born free?
4. Did religious toleration of Protestants and Jews include equal political rights?



# March of the Women, October 5-6, 1789

A spontaneous demonstration of Parisian women for bread.



*We want the baker, the baker's wife  
and the baker's boy!*

# The “October Days” (1789)



The king was thought to be surrounded by evil advisors at Versailles so he was forced to move to Paris and reside at the **Tuileries Palace**.



# Planting the Tree of Liberty



1790



# How to Finance the New Govt.?

## 1. Confiscate Church Lands (1790)



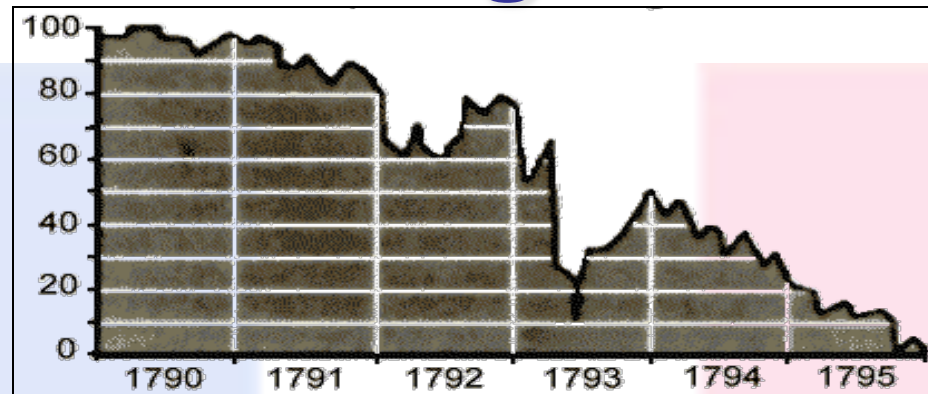
One of the most controversial decisions of the entire revolutionary period.

## 2. Print Assignats



- ✓ Issued by the National Constituent Assembly.
- ✓ Interest-bearing notes which had the church lands as security.

# Depreciation of the *Assignat*

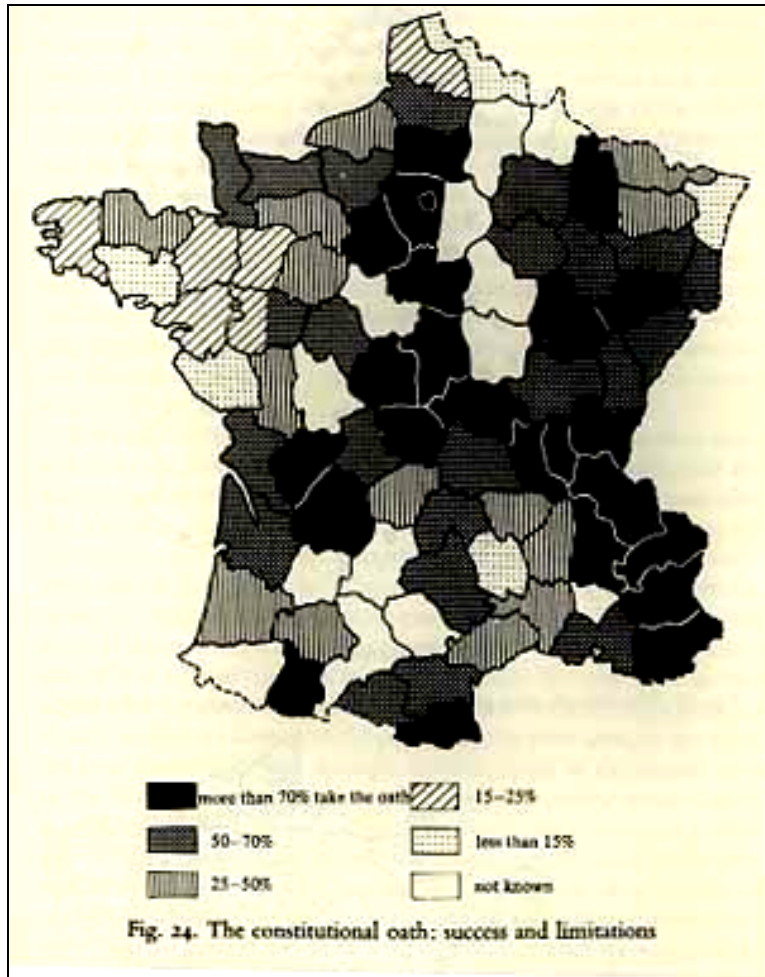


- ✓ Whoever acquired them were entitled to certain privileges in the purchase of church land.
- ✓ The state would retire the notes (assignats) as the land was sold.
- ✓ They began circulating as paper currency.
  - Government printed more → **INFLATION** [they lost 99% of their value ultimately].
  - Therefore, future governments paid off their creditors with cheap money.



# The Civil Constitution of the Clergy

**Serious blunder**  
**by the National**  
**Assembly-**  
**common people**  
**wanted the**  
**Catholic**  
**religious**  
**institution**



The oath of allegiance permanently divided the Catholic population! Pope forbade it!

# New Relations Between Church & State

- V Government paid the salaries of the French clergy and maintained the churches.
- V The church was reorganized:
  - Parish priests → elected by the district assemblies.
  - Bishops → named by the department assemblies.
  - The pope had NO voice in the appointment of the French clergy.
- V It transformed France's Roman Catholic Church into a branch of the state!!



Pope Pius VI  
[1775-1799]

# Louis XVI “Accepts” the Constitution & the National Assembly. 1791





# The French Constitution of 1791:

## A Bourgeois Government

- V The king got the “**suspensive**” **veto** [which prevented the passage of laws for 4 years].
  - He could not pass laws.
  - His ministers were responsible for their own actions.
- V A permanent, elected, single chamber National Assembly.
  - Had the power to grant taxation.
- V An independent judiciary.

# The French Constitution of 1791: A Bourgeois Government

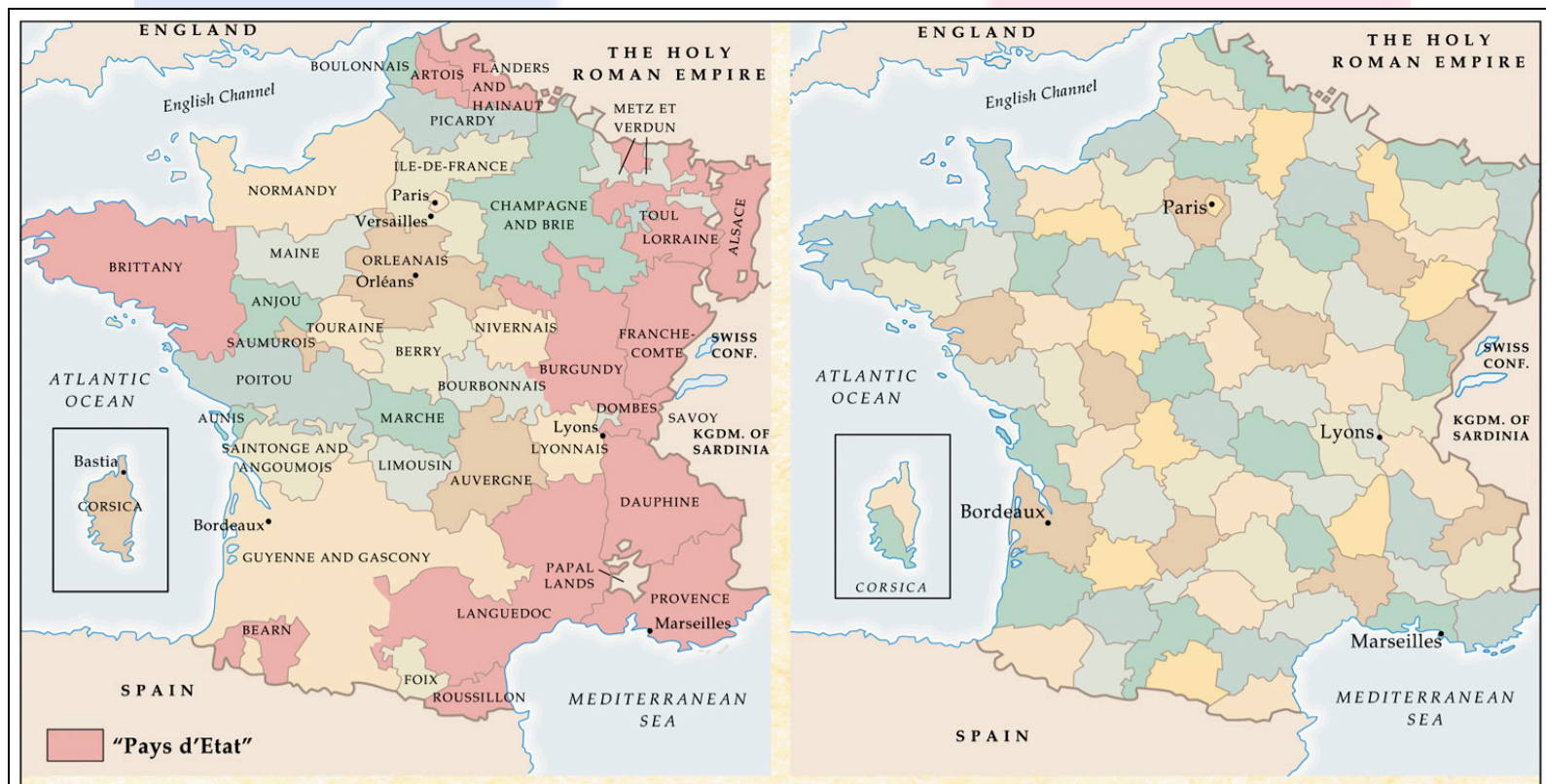
V “Active” Citizen [who pays taxes amounting to 3 days labor] could vote vs. “Passive” Citizen.

- 1/3 of adult males were denied the franchise.
- Domestic servants were also excluded.

V A newly elected **LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**.

GOAL → Make sure that the country was not turned over to the mob!

# 83 Revolutionary *Departments*



February 26, 1790



# The Royal Family Attempts to Flee

- Y June, 1791
- Y Helped by the Swedish Count Hans Axel von Fusen [Marie Antoinette's lover?].
- Y Headed toward the Luxembourg border.
- Y The King was recognized at Varennes, near the border



# Olympe de Gouges

## (1745-1793)

- ✓ Women played a vital role in the Revolution.
- ✓ But, *The Declaration of the Rights of Man* did NOT extend the rights and protections of citizenship to women.
- ✓ She would be guillotined later.

***Declaration of the  
Rights of Woman  
and of the Citizen  
(1791)***



# French Soldiers & the Tricolor: *Vive Le Patrie!*



- ✓ The French armies were ill-prepared for the conflict.
- ✓  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the officer corps had emigrated.
- ✓ Many men deserted.
- ✓ New recruits were enthusiastic, but ill-trained.
- ✓ French troops often broke ranks and fled in disorder.



# August , 1791-

## Opposition from abroad

- Frederick II and Leopold II of Austria attempted to create a coalition to support the King but European Monarchs were too suspicious of each other to undertake this plan.

# Bibliographic Resources

« “Hist210—Europe in the Age of Revolutions.”  
<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/history/courses/europe1/chron/rch5.htm>

« “Liberty, Fraternity, Equality: Exploring the French Revolution.”  
<http://chnm.gmu.edu/revolution/>

« Matthews, Andrew. *Revolution and Reaction: Europe, 1789-1849*. Cambridge University Press, 2001.

« “The Napoleonic Guide.”  
<http://www.napoleonguide.com/index.htm>



**Ms. Susan M. Pojer**  
**Horace Greeley HS**  
**Chappaqua, NY**